

**Michigan Association
of United Ways**

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May 14, 2013

The Michigan Association of United Ways, on behalf of our local chapters across the state, encourage passage of the concept as presented in HB 4714 with further thought given to time limits as currently proposed.

We commend the Legislature in taking a bold step forward with consideration to increase access to healthcare through pending legislation as addressed in HB 4714. For thousands of individuals close to the poverty line, this bill will expand medical options while reforming our existing Medicaid system.

As we transition our healthcare system for these individuals from one of crisis or emergency room care to a preventative care model, we do ask that you further consider the proposed time restrictions placed on coverage.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, chronic disease costs account for over 75% of our healthcare costs in the United States. This amount can be greatly reduced when we are successful in early treatment and prevention of the early conditions of these diseases. This shift is certainly not going to happen in the short term, and therefore we need to approach this model over a longer time period when the financial gains will be met. For us to see the full cost benefits of a preventative model will depend on secure, on-going coverage for these new entrants into our system.

Thanks again for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Dzurka".

Scott Dzurka
President and CEO